Mr. Chester Bowles

Dear Chet:

Upon my return from Europe I found your letter of peptember 10th enclosing the copy of the letter you sent to Chris Herter concerning the Americans still held in prisons by the Chinese Communists.

I understand that one of the first instructions the State Department sent Ambassador Beam in Warsaw was to make sure that the prisoner release item was on the conference agenda and was pursued forcefully in his talks. I am sure you know that I am as anxious as anyone to see that everything possible be done to secure the early release of these men.

With best wishes.

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Allen W. Dulles
Director

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Replaces Form 30-4
which may be used.

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12 SEP 1958

Mr. Chester Bowles Essex, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Bowles:

During the temporary absence of Mr. Dulles, may I acknowledge your letter of 10 September.

Mr. Dulles is not expected back from his trip to Europe until about 1 October. However, when he returns to his office I shall bring your letter to his attention.

Sincerely,

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| Assistant to the Director | |
| dd 12 September 1958 | |

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CHESTER BOWLES
ESSEX, CONNECTICUT

September 10, 1958

Dear Allen:

I am enclosing a copy of a note which I have just written to Chris Herter which I hope may induce him to prod our Assistant Secretary of State for Far Eastern Affiars.

Do you remember our conversation in your office last December when I suggested that Communist pressure on Quemoy was inevitable and that it would place us in an impossible dilemma?

I had the feeling then that you agreed but I also understood what you are up against. Let's hope we come through without an explosion.

With my warmest regards.

Sincerely,

Chester Bowles

Mr. Allen Dulles
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington 25, D.C.
(transcribed and signed in
Mr. Bowles' absence)
CB:ib

September 10, 1958

Dear Chris:

I wonder if this is not an opportune time to press for the release of Jack Downey and his three follow Americans who are still held in Chinoco prisons?

I have been particularly interested because I know Jack's mother, and I have tired to be helpful where I could.

Two years ago, as you may know, I persuaded Mahru to press Chou En-lai for thier release. Chou En-lai promised to act and then later reneged on his assurances.

Last December when the Peking government are Mrs. Downey a visa to visit Jack we were all hopeful that they would relent - for public relations reasons, if for no other. But this was a false hope.

In the negotiations in Tarsaw I hope that we will make the point at the very outset that the release of Jack and the other prisoners is vitally important as an indication of China's good intentions.

I believe that this is an effective and important point for us to make. I also believe that our government has a responsibility to move vigorously for the release of Jack and his three associates on humanitarian grounds.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Allen Dulles with whom I have discussed this situation on several occasions.

With my warment regards.

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Sincerely,

Chester Bowles

The Honorable Christian A. Herter Undersecretary of State of Market The State Department ashington, D. C. (transcribed and sign d in Tr. Booles' absence)

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Officer

Office of the Director

SUBJECT:

Downey - Fecteau Cases

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1. Reference is made to your request for new information which the Director might relate to Mr. Chester Bowles concerning the Fecteau - Downey cases.

2. The Director may wish to advise Mr. Bowles that the Department of State advised our Warsaw Ambassador Beam that the prisoner release should be on the Conference agenda and that he should be forceful in his talks on this issue.

3. By way of additional information, we have learned that the prisoner issue was raised by Ambassador Beam at the first meeting. The Chinese Communist representative pushed this issue aside and it has not been discussed again since that time.

Gordon M. Stewart
Director of Personnel

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